PDS Technical Authority

The technical authority of the Planetary Data System (PDS) is the PDS Management Council (MC). As Technical authority the PDS MC is responsible for archive design, archive implementation, and data standards. It provides findings for NASA with respect to planetary science data management, ensures coordination among Nodes, responsiveness to customer needs, and appropriate uses of evolving information technologies that may make PDS tasks both more efficient and more cost effective.

1. Organizations and Operation

   The Management Council consists of the PDS Project Manager, PDS Chief Scientist, Managers of the Engineering, Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility, Science Discipline Nodes (Atmospheres, Geosciences, Imaging, Planetary Plasma Interactions, Rings, and Small Bodies), and the Radio Science Advisor.

   The PDS Project Manager chairs the MC and conducts its meetings, setting the agenda with the help and input of the PDS Project Scientist and the other MC members. The PDS Chief Scientist serves as Vice Chair and conducts the Executive Session at the end of the meetings.

   Between face-to-face meetings, the MC convenes regularly by teleconference and may confer by e-mail, or other means to address questions needing more frequent or more immediate attention.

   As needed, the MC may convene subgroups, including Technology Subgroups, to pursue specific actions and report results to the Council.

2. The duties of the PDS Management Council are to:
   a. Serve as the technical authority for PDS archive standards and processes;
   b. Ensure that best archive standards and practices are followed, and that these are in conformity with both National and International data standards and conventions;
   c. Ensure commonality, continuity and compatibility of new data structures, data formats, and metadata, which may be requested by new NASA Planetary Missions subject to the specific provisions of any relevant AO or the directive of the relevant selective official;
   d. Coordinate the activities of the PDS nodes so that NASA Planetary Missions receive the best and most relevant expert support across the archive;
   e. Lead and inspire PDS and NASA efforts to increase the discoverability and accessibility of the archive in order to increase the science return from the mission.